

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for producing protein-coated polystyrene microparticles comprising the steps of:
  - (a) combining a suspension of uncoated microparticles with a protein, the protein being a partner of a bioaffinity binding pair and having a size from 10 nm to 300 nm, ~~the combination comprising a buffer and having a pH of 10.5 to 12.5,~~
  - (b) ~~incubating~~ adjusting the pH of the combination from (a) to 10.5 to 12.5 and incubating the combination for a period of time whereby the protein is coated onto the microparticles by adsorption, and
  - (c) separating the non-adsorbed protein from the protein-coated microparticles.
2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the protein has been polymerized by chemical treatment.
3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the protein is a streptavidin which has been polymerized by chemical treatment.
4. (cancelled)
5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the microparticles have a magnetizable core.
6. (cancelled)
7. (cancelled)
8. (cancelled)